

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----161314Z 110464 /40
O O 161302Z APR 77 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7430
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06582

EXDIS

LONDON ALSO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, UR, FR, US, UK

SUBJECT: BERLIN: SOVIETS CALL FOR END TO MILITARY
PATROLS

1. ON APRIL 16, FRENCH REP TO BONN GROUP (DE BOISSIEU)
CALLED IN UK AND US REPS TO INFORM THEM THAT ON
APRIL 15 THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN PARIS, CHERVONENKO,
CALLED ON QUAI POLITICAL DIRECTOR DE LABOULAYE.
CHERVONENKO, STATING THAT HE WAS DOING SO ON INSTRUCTIONS,
RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE ALLIED
PATROLS IN "BERLIN, CAPITAL OF THE GDR." HE SAID THAT
SUCH PATROLS IRRITATE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GDR AND
SERVE NO PURPOSE WHATSOEVER. THE CIRCULATION OF
PATROLS IS NEITHER IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING LAW
NOR WITH THE WIDESPREAD RECOGNITION OF THE GDR. HE
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SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE SOVIET DEMARCHE WAS NOT
TO MODIFY THE CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL BETWEEN THE GDR
AND WEST BERLIN. HE STATED THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT
WILL REFRAIN FROM MAKING THE DEMARCHE PUBLIC BUT
EXPECTS FROM THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT THAT IT WILL TAKE
THE NECESSARY STEPS TO INSURE THAT THE PATROLS BE
PROGRESSIVELY REDUCED TO NONE. DE BOISSIEU TOLD US

THAT DE LABOULAYE NOTED THE DEMARCHE AND INDICATED THAT ANY PUTTING INTO QUESTION OF THE ESTABLISHED SITUATION COULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.

2. DE BOISSIEU SAID THAT THE FRENCH WILL PROBABLY RESPOND TO THE DEMARCHE BUT WILL DELAY DOING SO UNTIL IT IS KNOWN WHETHER DEMARCHES HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE UK AND US. US REP AND UK REP (EYERS) TOLD HIM THAT THEY HAD NO REPORT OF SIMILAR DEMARCHES IN WASHINGTON OR LONDON. THEY AGREED WITH DE BOISSIEU'S VIEW THAT A FORMAL RESPONSE WAS ESSENTIAL AND THAT SUCH A RESPONSE SHOULD BE BOTH FIRM AND BRIEF.

3. DE BOISSIEU DOES NOT PLAN TO INFORM THE GERMANS AT THIS TIME AND REQUESTED THAT WE HOLD THE INFORMATION CLOSELY.

4. COMMENT: CHERVONENKO'S DEMARCHE GOES MUCH FURTHER THAN THE RECENT REMARKS BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR ABRASIMOV TO UK AMBASSADOR WRIGHT ON JANUARY 19 (BONN 1212, PARA 6; AND USBER 358, PARA 7) AND TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR WORMSER ON MARCH 11 (BONN 4513). WHILE ABRASIMOV DESCRIBED THE ALLIED PATROLS--PARTICULARLY THE AMERICAN ONES--AS AN IRRITANT AND AS A RELIC OF THE PAST, CHERVONENKO'S IS THE FIRST OUTRIGHT DEMAND THAT THE PATROLS BE TERMINATED.

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ACTION SS-25

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-----161314Z 110461 /40
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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EXDIS

5. HIS STATEMENT THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE PROGRESSIVELY SUGGESTS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE PREPARED TO WAIT A REASONABLE LENGTH OF TIME TO SEE WHETHER THERE IS ACTUALLY A REDUCTION IN FREQUENCY OF PATROLS BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THEM. IT IS ONLY SAFE TO ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT THEY EXPECT A NEGATIVE REPLY FROM THE FRENCH AND THAT THEY WOULD NOT HAVE MADE SUCH AN EXPLICIT DEMAND UNLESS THEY WERE AT LEAST CONTEMPLATING ADDITIONAL MEASURES, EITHER WITH REGARD TO THE PATROLS OR POSSIBLY IN SOME OTHER AREA, TO INDICATE THEIR DISPLEASURE. END COMMENT

6. FOR MOSCOW: WITH REFERENCE TO MOSCOW 5152, WE ASSUME AMBASSADOR TOON WILL WISH TO BE PREPARED TO REJECT IN STRONG TERMS ANY SIMILAR DEMARCHE THAT KORNIYENKO MIGHT MAKE AT THE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 18. AS THIS NEW SOVIET TACK
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WILL HAVE A BEARING ON THE ASSESSMENT THE BONN GROUP IS PREPARING FOR THE MAY QUADRIPARTITE MEETING, WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR A PROMPT REPORT ON THE APRIL 18 MEETING SO THAT IT CAN BE CONSIDERED AT THE APRIL 19 BONN GROUP DRAFTING SESSION ON THE ASSESSMENT.
STOESSEL

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